

PEOPLE PROFILE

Kazakh People

Descendants of the fierce nomadic tribes of Mongolia, the Kazakhs are traditionally herdsman. They love horses and horseback sports. In the sixteenth century they gradually came under the rule of the Czar of Russia. Since the Communist came to power, the Kazakhs have suffered tremendously. Hundreds of thousands starved to death under Stalin as they were forced to abandon their nomadic lifestyle and work on collective farms. Today, nationalistic fervor is realized among these once again rulers of Kazakhstan.

The Kazakhs are facing ecological catastrophe due to mismanagement of natural resources. This has caused the near desolation of the fourth largest lake in the world the Aral Sea, and contamination of much of the drinking water. As a result there is high infant mortality, a high rate of stillbirths, and fetal deformities.

Currently, a tremendous spiritual vacuum exist among the Kazakhs. While Kazakhs cling to Islam in rural areas, many in the urban areas have abandon Isalm, and are turning to astrology and spiritism. A vibrant Christian witness is nearly nonexistent.

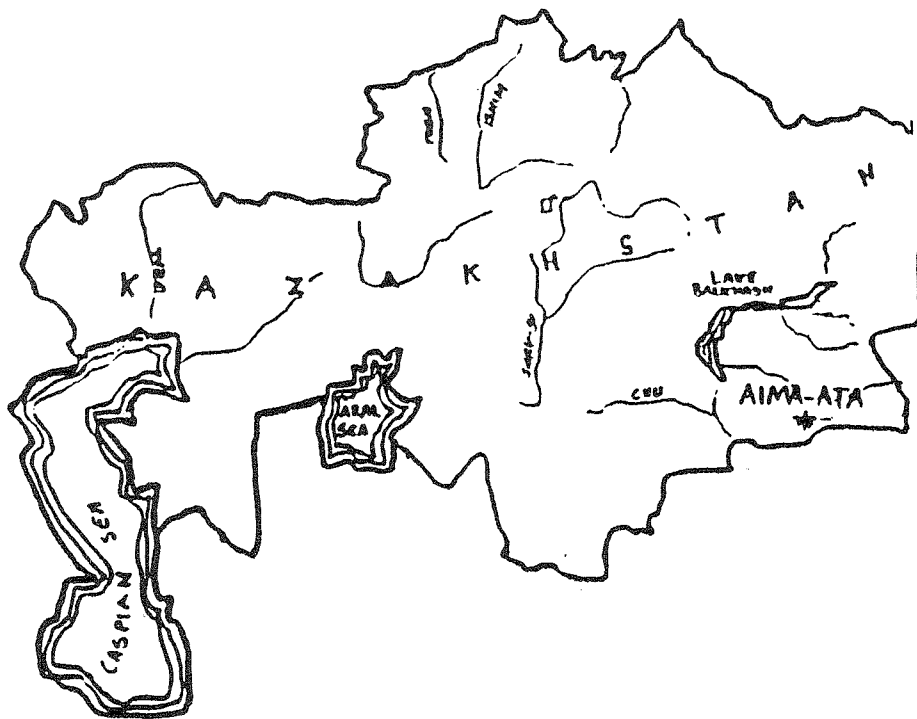
Location: The Kazakhs inhabit the Republic of Kazakhstan (formerly Kazakh S.S.R.) as well as the Xinjiang Province of Western China. Others live in the Republics of Uzbekistan, Tadjikstan, and Russia. Smaller populations of Kazakhs can be found in Mongolia, Afghanistan, Iran, and Turkey.



Religion :
Islam (Sunni)

Population :
8,137,873

Status : less than
0.04% Christian



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PEOPLE PROFILE SUMMARY

1. HAVE THEY HEARD THE GOSPEL?

Kazakh

Pastors / Evangelists to Population 1990 : 0 pastor / evangelist for every 8,137,873 persons. (total pastors / evangelists - 0)
Missionaries to Population 1990 : 1 missionary for every 678,156 persons. (total missionaries - 12)
Number of mission agencies targeting this people group 5.

Who is Jesus Christ to them? .04 % Believe Jesus is the Son of God.
90 % Believe Jesus is a Prophet, Teacher, a Good Man, but not God's Son.
9.6 % Believe Jesus is myth.
% Have never heard His name.
% Other _____.

2. HAVE THEY RESPONDED TO THE GOSPEL?

Believers to Population 1980 : 1 believer to every 288,000 persons. (total believers - 25) (0.0064 %)
1990 : 1 believer to every 162,758 persons. (total believers - 50) (0.03 %)

Is there adequate prayer for this people?

Number of churches / fellowships adopting this people group n/a.

3. DO THEY HAVE A CHURCH?

Churches to Population 1980: 0 church for every 7,200,000 persons. (Total churches - 0)
1990: 0 church for every 8,137,873 persons. (Total churches - 0)

Total Number of Communities (cities, towns, villages) - n/a.

Churches to Communitites 1980: 0 church for every all communities. (communities without a church - 100%)
1990: 0 church for every all communities. (communities without a church - 100%)

4. DOES THIS PEOPLE HAVE THE WORD OF GOD TRANSLATED INTO THEIR MOTHER TONGUE? (N.T., O.T., PORTIONS) IN WHAT FORMS? (Printed, audio, visual)

The Gospel of Mark (1983); Matthew in progress

5. ANY HINDRANCES TO SCRIPTURE DISTRIBUTION? Literacy Rate: 99 %

New openness in the Kazakhstan makes scripture distribution possible. Funding, printing, and distribution is required.

6. WHAT OTHER FORMS OF GOSPEL PRESENTATIONS ARE AVAILABLE?

Recordings : Gospel Recordings	Radio : Far East Broadcasting Co., TransWorld Radio
Literature : Four Spiritual Laws	Video : None
Films : Jesus Film	Other : None

7. ARE THEY RECEPTIVE TO CHANGE AND TO CHRISTIANITY?

(Why or why not?)

The Kazakhs consider themselves Muslims. However, with the rapid changes in their country the Kazakhs are open to the Western worldview including Christianity.

8. DO THEY REQUIRE OUTSIDE (CROSS-CULTURAL) ASSISTANCE FROM MISSIONARIES?

(Why or why not? Conclusions based on answers to questions 1-7)

Yes. Even though there are Russian and German churches in Kazakhstan, there are no Kazakh churches and no Kazakh pastors. The few believers that exist are scattered, and are unable to meet together for worship. The Kazakh evangelistic force is nearly nonexistent. Outside assistance is needed for evangelism, establishing of fellowships, and training of leaders.